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MLA booth highlights past year at the library

This year at the Missouri Library Association's annual conference, the state library exhibit booth offered more than the standard "who we are" display. The library incorporated its fiscal year 2005 annual report into the booth signage and materials so visitors could meet with library staff and see what the library accomplished during the past year.

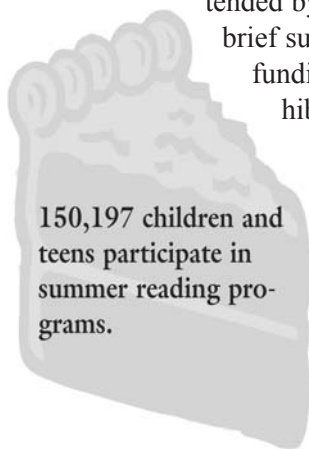
The centerpiece and most popular part of the booth's "report" was edible – a full sheet cake screen-printed with facts about the library. Other decorative foam board

"cake slices" hung from the exhibit booth's back wall. Each cake slice listed a significant event from the past year – from the election of Secretary of State Robin Carnahan, to the impressive number of children and teens participating in summer reading programs (150,197).

Three more posters in the exhibit featured more statewide news and events, new library construction, and continuing education opportunities from the state library. The 18 libraries featured on the "Newest Library Buildings" poster included those with new locations, new construction, or expansion projects completed between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005. The continuing education poster listed the state library-sponsored workshops attended by over 900 library employees. Statewide news and events included brief summaries of the past year's tax levies, new publications, grant funding, and other important activities. All of the materials in the exhibit are being incorporated into a print document for distribution around the state.



State library consultants Diana Very, Brenda Sites, State Librarian Sara Parker, and Holly Dentner take a break from serving cake at the Missouri Library Association Conference.



150,197 children and teens participate in summer reading programs.

The library was one of a block of statewide organizations found at the exhibit hall, so conference attendees could easily navigate between MOREnet, MLNC, MOBIUS, and the state library to pick up materials and meet with staff. The exhibit booth also proved a popular location for librarians to come by and offer congratulations and support to State Librarian Sara Parker, who recently announced her retirement. The conference took place on October 26-28, 2005, in Kansas City.

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State library surveys for opinions on LSTA

To ensure grants funds best meet Missouri libraries' needs, Secretary of State Robin Carnahan recently proposed conducting a survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant program administered by the state library. By surveying Missouri's libraries on the value of grants offered, Secretary Carnahan hoped to gauge the satisfaction level of library employees and explore ideas for additional grant opportunities.

LSTA grants can be used for two major purposes: technology and information access, and targeted library services for special clients. Funds can be used to support statewide initiatives or specific grants to public, academic, research, school, and special libraries in the state.

The survey was created by state library employees and posted online August 12-26, 2005. It asked the satisfaction level for five statewide projects and 10 types of grants. Only 79 responses, mostly from public libraries, were received. This low response rate posed some limitations on the results. Such a low response means the survey was not a representative sample of libraries. No major assumptions about the effect of the LSTA could be scientifically extrapolated from the survey, but it did provide some insight into the opinions and perceptions held by Missouri's library workers.

The survey asked for participants to rate their satisfaction level on the statewide projects involving continuing education, collection development, literacy, Show Me the World, Virtually Missouri, and video-conferencing. Continuing education and Show Me the World received the highest positive ratings, and the other categories received a significant number of "no opinion" responses. None of the categories received a majority of negative responses. In fact, all categories received less than eight negatives out of the 79 responses submitted.

When participants were asked to rate individual grant programs, the results were similar. The training and professional develop-

ment grants received the highest number of positive ratings, along with the Show Me Steps to Career Development grants and the technology enhancement grants. After School Connections and Discoveries grants received the most "no opinion" and negative ratings, but out of the 55 responses, almost half in those categories were "no opinion." The After School Connection grant only received only seven negative ratings, and the Discoveries grant question received eight.

In addition to placing a rating on the projects and grants, participants were asked to comment on them as well. Out of the 40 comments received, 26 were generally positive and only seven were negative. Most indicated an appreciation of the ability to serve patrons better with the grant funding. Many acknowledged the service improvements provided with the LSTA grant funding and the way grant funds give libraries the chance to expand their services. As one participant commented, "I have been pleased that the state library funds initiatives for things we might not have thought of or might not have felt we could justify spending money on – which has pushed us into areas we might not have explored on our own."

Secretary Carnahan, the state library, and the Secretary's Council on Library Development will use the ratings and comments received to shape the 2007 LSTA program and beyond.

Missouri participates in national summer library program project

Missouri was one of 11 states chosen to participate in the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) first program-specific Outcome Based Evaluation (OBE) project. IMLS has used this planning and evaluation tool since 1993. Training is provided so state library agencies can report about Library Services and Technology Act-funded projects incorporating this evaluation technique.

Historically, summer library programs are the most established and common programs

in public libraries. IMLS chose summer library programs as the most logical on which to focus its first national OBE project. In addition to Missouri, representatives from Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Nevada, New Jersey, Texas, Vermont, and Washington were chosen to serve on the IMLS Summer Library Program OBE Task Force.

Each state was required to send three representatives to participate in the project – one from the state library agency and two public librarians with experience planning and implementing summer library programs. Vera Florea, representing the Springfield-Greene County Library, and Margaret Northcraft, representing the Hannibal Free Public Library, attended the September project meeting in Washington, D.C. with Nancee Dahms-Stinson, youth and senior services consultant at the Missouri State Library.

During the two-day meeting, task force members were introduced to the theory and concepts of outcome based evaluation, with state representatives working to develop lists of inputs, outcomes, indicators, data sources, targets, outputs, and activities/services, the key elements of the OBE logic model. Each state was charged with creating a logic model to fit its desired outcomes. As the state teams shared the elements of their logic models, it became obvious most libraries have very similar but distinct goals for their summer programs.

One goal of the IMLS summer library program OBE project is to build an evaluation model that will allow library staff across the nation to collect and integrate information in a consistent way. Once each state OBE team tests and revises its logic model, the Summer Library Program OBE Task Force will refine and build a multi-state logic model. By late winter, the final logic model will be complete. OBE Task Force public libraries will incorporate the OBE plans into their 2006 summer library program and share the results with the other OBE Task Force states. At that point, the Task Force will review the results to determine if any further revision of the plan is necessary.

For more information about the IMLS Summer Library Program OBE Task Force, contact Nancee Dahms-Stinson at nancee.dahms-stinson@sos.mo.gov. To learn more about outcome based evaluation in libraries, go to www.imls.gov/grants/current/crnt_obe.htm.

Wolfner Library adds audio to national publication

Two distinguished audio book narrators from the Library of Congress National Library Service (NLS) visited Jefferson City in October to work with Wolfner Library staff to add audio to the NLS *Say How?* publication. *Say How?* is a pronunciation guide listing over 10,000 names of public figures. Talking book studios nationwide use the publication to determine the proper way to pronounce names ranging from Maya Angelou (MĪ-əAN-jel-ō) to Franco Zeffirelli (FRÄN-kō zef-ə-REL-lē).

Ray Hagen and Laura Giannarelli have recorded over 900 audio books for the NLS Talking Book Program, including how-to books, biographies, nonfiction, classics, romances, bestsellers, poetry, children's books, and many genres. Giannarelli won the Alexander Scourby Narrator of the Year Award in 1990 from the American Foundation for the Blind, while Hagan received the prestigious Alexander Scourby Lifetime Achievement Award.

The two used Wolfner Library's recently constructed, state-of-the-art digital recording booth. The booth is used to digitally record audio books by Missouri authors and of Missouri interests to supplement the over 60,000 NLS audio books currently distributed by Wolfner Library to more than 17,000 Missourians unable to read standard printed materials due to visual or physical disability.

Check out more pronunciations from the *Say How?* publication at www.loc.gov/nls/other/sayhow.html.



WEB WATCH

Directory of Open Access Journals

www.doaj.org/home

The site offers free, full-text, quality-controlled scientific and scholarly journals. Updated frequently, there are over 1,900 journals in the directory and almost 500 of them are searchable at the article level. Of particular interest to librarians: over 50 journals listed in the library and information science subject group (www.doaj.org/ljbs?cpid=129).

Guys Read

www.guysread.com

Jon Scieszka, author of the Caldecott Honor Book *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*, created a site designed to encourage boys to read and point them toward materials that interest them. The site includes a "find a book" feature where "guys" or "adults" can search by favorite author, title, or subject. Reading lists, suggestions for forming book clubs, and downloadable stickers and bookmarks are also available.



Missouri Library News

newsline welcomes information for "Missouri Library News" and "Personal Notes" from librarians, library trustees, and others interested in the state's libraries. Send news about library events, projects, awards, and personnel changes to the editor. (See page 2 for contact information.)

Below: Jacqueline Woodson autographs books for her fans in southeast Missouri. (Cape Girardeau Public Library photo)

Librarians and educators join forces to host author visits

Jacqueline Woodson told students in Cape Girardeau and New Madrid that the most important part about being a writer is "walking through the world with your eyes open." Woodson spoke to over 1,000 students as part of a local literacy program that brings authors to the southeast Missouri region to help get kids excited about books and reading. She shared her ideas about writing and emphasized the role reading plays in a writer's life.

During her first day in the state she spoke to three groups of elementary and middle school students from New Madrid, as well as students who came on buses from area communities. During her second day, she spoke to 900 middle school students in the morning, 200 elementary students in the afternoon, and held a special afterschool writing workshop for select students at Central High School in Cape Girardeau. At the workshop she allowed students to read from their own work, and talked about some of

her favorite books and the things she has taken with her from the books she has read. Local sponsors in Cape Girardeau made it possible for every student to receive a copy of one of Woodson's books.

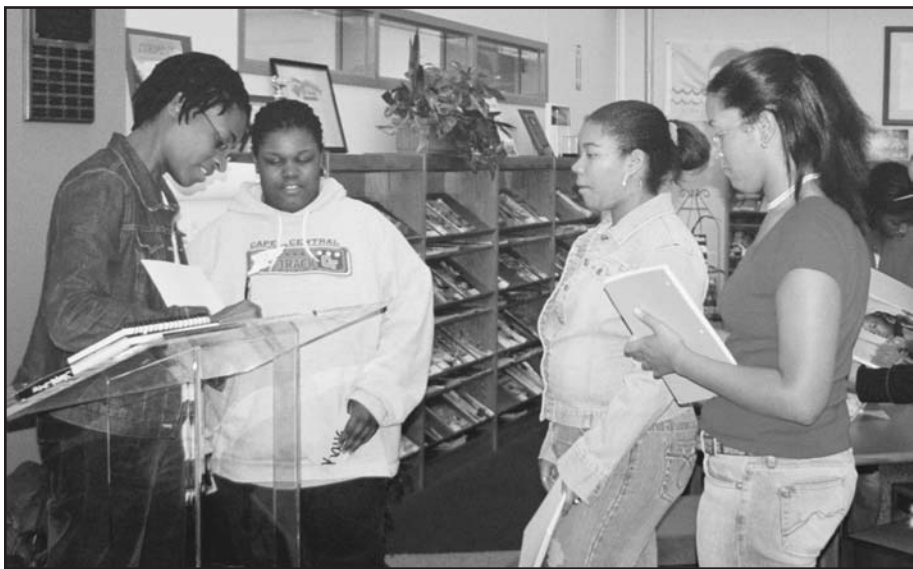
Woodson's visit was organized by Youth Education Literacy and Learning Foundation (YELL), a group comprised of public and school librarians, teachers, and staff members from the *Southeast Missourian*. The group sponsors the newspapers in the classroom project in the area and recently took on the role of bringing authors to the region for annual events.

Most of the author visits have targeted students in fourth through sixth grade, as organizers find this age group buys the most books at the events. Additional support comes from a local school librarians association, which made a \$5,000 donation that serves as YELL's seed money. Schools that choose to sponsor an author visit are expected to pay a portion of the author's honorarium and sell the author's books. YELL takes care of the contracts, transportation, lodging, and meals for the author. Since the program began, YELL has sponsored appearances by Jeannette Ingold, Jack Gantos, Roland Smith, and Gordon Korman. It will host Lisa Campbell Ernst in February.

Kauffman Foundation grant will create new meeting space in Kansas City

When the Plaza branch of the Kansas City Public Library opened in April, 15,000 square feet in the lower level of the library remained unfinished. Thanks to a \$2.1 million grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the library will use the space to create a state-of-the-art presentation and meeting space honoring President Harry S. Truman. The new area is a joint project of the Kansas City Public Library, the Kansas City Public Library Foundation, and the Harry S. Truman Library Institute in Independence.

The two-year Foundation grant will provide broader access to the resources of the Truman Library Institute through the cen-



trally located Plaza branch. In addition to serving as general public meeting ground, the new center will offer special events, programs, a lecture series, and new exhibits about President Truman. One such program is the Truman Library's White House Decision Center, which places students in the position of making decisions similar to those faced by President Truman and his advisors. The Truman Library's Decision Center in Independence is already at capacity, and the new center will make the program available to a larger audience.

Botanical garden to create digital research portal

The Missouri Botanical Garden was one of 41 museums and libraries to receive an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant for 2005. More than \$17 million has been awarded to organizations across the country who will provide over \$15 million in matching funds.

Located in St. Louis, the Missouri Botanical Garden is one of the oldest botanical institutions in the country. The Garden is a center for botanical research and science education and the horticultural displays span 79 acres.

The \$494,216 grant will help create a public resource computing application that digitizes and automatically indexes vast amounts of scientific literature, ultimately providing users with an integrated Web portal for the discovery of information about plants. This Web portal will be a valuable tool for anyone interested in learning about plants, including scientists, students, and the general public. The Botanical Garden will match the grant with \$512,989.

Kirkwood receives Jewish literature grant

Kirkwood Public Library is one of 30 libraries receiving *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature* grants from the American Library Association (ALA) and Nextbook. This is the third grant cycle for the program and the first time a Missouri library has received one of the grants. *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature* features scholar-led, theme-based discus-

sions that explore the best in contemporary and classic Jewish literature. Participating libraries will each host a five-part discussion series featuring one of four themes: Your Heart's Desire: Sex and Love in Jewish Literature; Demons, Golems, and Dybbuks: Monsters of the Jewish Imagination; Between Two Worlds: Stories of Estrangement and Homecoming; and A Mind of Her Own: Fathers and Daughters in a Changing World.

Libraries receive training at a national workshop, program and promotional materials, and a \$1,500 grant to support workshop travel, program costs, and scholar honorarium.

Stockton loses federal grant funds for library

After months of disagreement with its community partners, the Cedar County Library has lost \$350,000 in federal funds to build a new library/community center in Stockton.

A tornado destroyed the library's original building in May 2003, and the library has operated out of a modular unit since that time. By joining forces with a Stockton nonprofit organization, the library board had hoped to build a joint library and community center with support from a variety of federal agencies.

Over \$1 million in state and federal funds had been targeted for the center, including \$100,000 from USDA for design work, \$175,000 from FEMA for a safe room/public meeting space, and \$350,000 from the Community Development Block Grant Program for construction of the facility. The Neighborhood Assistance Program also approved \$500,000 worth of potential donations as eligible for tax credits.

Problems arose when the nonprofit organization and library board could not agree on maintenance costs, construction schedules, and the design and location of the center. The Block Grant Program withdrew the \$350,000 grant in September due to lack of project progress. While the safe room/public meeting room funding is still intact, the library board must now reconsider its options for a new facility in Stockton.

Missouri's recent 'one book' selections

One book, one community reading projects in the state offer innovative programming and thought-provoking cultural discussions. This year's books include:

United We Read, the Kansas City area program, selected two books for discussion: *Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini, and *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*, by Mary Roach. This is the first year two books have been selected so participants could read fiction, nonfiction, or both.

Columbia's One Read program selected Orson Scott Card's *Ender's Game*, and after visiting the city in October to participate in the programming, Card said Columbia's was "the strongest, best-supported one-city-one-book program I've seen."

ReadMOre, based in St. Louis has announced *Messages From My Father*, by Calvin Trillin, for the 2006 program. Members of the Missouri Library Association selected the book from three finalists in October, and programming begins in spring 2006.

Cape Girardeau's United We Read will also feature two books for its 2006 program: *The Gold of Cape Girardeau*, by Morley Swingle, and *The Widow of the South*, by Robert Hicks. Swingle is a Cape Girardeau resident and his book won a 2005 Governor's Humanities Book Award.

The Springfield-Greene County Library District is planning a new community-wide reading program, tentatively called "The Reading Web." The library plans to offer a month-long series of activities centered on *Charlotte's Web*, by E.B. White.



Personal Notes



Missouri's new LSTA grants coordinator Diana Very receives a big welcome from the Keller Public Library.

Appointments

Diana Very joined the state library as grants coordinator on July 1. Very previously worked as a grants program coordinator at the Missouri State Highway Patrol and as an accountant for the Department of Economic Development. She brings a significant amount of experience managing federal grant programs.

In addition to her position at the state library, Very teaches accounting classes for

the graduate and adult studies program at William Woods University. She holds the office of Missouri state representative for the American Association of Grants Professionals, a nonprofit organization focusing on the advancement of grantsmanship as a profession and the support of its practitioners.

Very holds a bachelor's degree in business administration/accounting from the University of Missouri–St. Louis and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Missouri–Columbia.

Jason Ramsey joined the state library as consultant for library and community partnerships on November 1. Ramsey previously worked as the director of development and public relations for the Central Missouri Humane Society in Columbia. He has also served as director of Senator Jean Carnahan's Jefferson City office and worked as assistant director of boards and commissions for Governor Mel Carnahan. Ramsey earned a bachelor's degree in history from Truman State University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Missouri–Columbia.

Thomas E. Cooper has been named director of Webster Groves Public Library. Cooper has almost 20 years of experience in library services and most recently served as the adult services librarian at Richmond Heights Memorial Library.

Crosby Kemper has been named the executive director of the Kansas City Public Library. Kemper has served as interim director since January 2005, and is the former CEO of UMB Bank and UMB Financial Corp.

Susan Sanders is the new dental instructional resources librarian at the University of Missouri–Kansas City School of Dentistry Library. She received her master's degree in library science from Emporia State University and was previously reference librarian at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Library.

Robin Westphal started work as director of the Livingston County Library on August 8. Prior to her appointment at Livingston County, Westphal worked as an adult services librarian for the Olathe (Kansas) Public Library. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Kansas State University and an MLS from Emporia State University.

Retirements

Diana Fox has retired from the St. Louis County Library after 20 years of service. Fox has served as manager of several of the county branches, and was appointed to her last position as manager of the Florissant Valley branch in 1990. She retired September 23.

Carolyn Witt recently announced her retirement as library director for the Washington Public Library. After 24 years at the library and a total of 30 years as a library employee, Witt's retirement was effective November 26. She plans to travel, continue storytelling in area schools, and be a supporter and patron of the library. She is one of only four people who have served as the city's librarian. Officials hope to find her replacement by the first of January.



Online courses a popular new learning opportunity

New online courses offered through the state library filled in less than a week as library staff from around the state signed up to learn about copyright basics and dealing with difficult patrons. Registration for the two courses opened in mid-July and were filled immediately, despite the fact they didn't begin until September and October.

The state library partnered with the University of North Texas School of Library and Information Sciences to bring the two "Library Education @ Desktop" courses to Missouri. They are designed to offer high quality, economical, Internet-delivered continuing education for library professionals and staff. Both courses can be completed in about two hours and only require a computer with Internet access and some common browser plug-ins. Participants have a preset time period to complete the course and work at their own pace and schedule.

"Managing Difficult Patrons with Confidence" teaches participants a variety of communication techniques for managing problem patron situations. "Copyright Basics for Libraries" covers the rights of a copyright holder, the ways copyright affects library service, and how to locate online and print resources on copyright. Both courses were offered at no charge to library employees.

Planning for a new round of courses is underway, and the state library has just received evaluation statistics from the difficult patrons course. Only 25 percent of participants had taken an online course prior to this one, and 94 percent said they would take another.

For additional information about continuing education opportunities offered through the state library, contact Brenda Sites at 800-325-0131, ext. 13, or brenda.sites@sos.mo.gov.

Wolfner honors its volunteers

Volunteers add spirit and heart to the services Wolfner Library provides to Missouri citi-



Deborah Stroup congratulates Wolfner volunteer Greg Thurston for his four years of service.

zens. They increase the effectiveness of paid staff and help build public awareness for the services available from the library. To honor their efforts, Wolfner held a volunteer appreciation dinner on October 21 in Jefferson City. Wolfner has honored its volunteers this way for several years, and this year they were declared "Great Works of Art." Each volunteer's face appeared in famous works of art decorating the walls of the banquet hall.

The 25 volunteers at the reception received certificates of appreciation and book bags with "Wolfner Library" in print and Braille. They were also treated to entertainment from the "Card Catalog Choir" and "Lost in the Stacks Players," who won't be quitting their day jobs as Wolfner employees any time soon.

Speakers at the event included Ray Hagen and Laura Giannarelli, audio book narrators from the National Library Service in Washington, D.C. Executive Deputy Secretary of State Mark Reading, State Librarian Sara Parker, Wolfner Library Director Richard Smith, National Federation of the Blind of Missouri President Gary Wunder, and Missouri Council of the Blind President Kathey Wheeler also offered thanks and congratulations to the volunteers.

Wolfner Library currently has 42 active volunteers. They continue to help Wolfner develop strong ties to the community and are essential to the process of recording books about Missouri. For more information about becoming a Wolfner Library volunteer, contact Deborah Stroup, Wolfner volunteer coordinator, at 800-392-2614.

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Study will examine how libraries provide government information

A partnership between the University of Illinois Library Research Center and the Pew Internet and American Life Project will investigate on how effectively public libraries and community technology centers provide government information to people with limited access to the Internet. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded \$495,053 for the national study. Findings and recommendations for improving services to the public are expected in October 2007.

"A number of national studies have examined the demographic and geographic factors affecting Internet behavior and use," said Mary Chute, IMLS director. "But little is known about how people with limited access to the Internet find government information, what kinds of assistance are available to them, and how information services to them can be improved."

Organizers hope the project will fill in these gaps through a national telephone survey of users, surveys of libraries and community technology centers, and case studies of exemplary organizations that provide access to government information and related training and services.

New words added to Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Nearly 100 new words have been added to the most recent edition of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary, including a few words that might be familiar to those in the library world:

- **cybrarian** (noun) 1992: a person whose job is to find, collect, and manage information that is available on the World Wide Web.
- **metadata** (noun) 1983: data that provides information about other data.
- **Wi-Fi** (certification mark): used to certify the interoperability of wireless computer networking devices

Additional new words can be viewed at www.merriam-webster.com/info/new_words.htm.



Katharine Chambers accepts her "Ten Squared" award from Secretary of State Robin Carnahan, State Librarian Sara Parker, Carolyn Sung of the National Library Service, and Waller McGuire, St. Louis Public Library director. Chambers, who is 103, was honored as one of nine Wolfner Library patrons who are 100 years or older.

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